

# Soroptimists offer \$2K for education

ENTERPRISE – The deadline is Feb. 15 for women to apply to the local Soroptimist club for a monetary award to help with higher education. Soroptimists present the Fellowship Award to a woman who is continuing her education with a post-graduate (master's or PhD) program. Applications are available at the Thrift Shop or by contacting Carolyn Pfeaster, 541-886-9395. Completed applications must be returned by Feb. 15. They can be mailed to Soroptimist, P.O. Box 127, Enterprise, OR 97828 or returned to the Thrift Shop. The award will be made to a woman who: (1) resides in the Northwestern Region of Soroptimist International of

the Americas; (2) is established in business or a profession; (3) holds a bachelor's or master's degree from an accredited college or university; and (4) presents a plan of worthwhile post-graduate study at an accredited college or university leading to an advanced degree or to enhance standing or competence in her business or profession. The Soroptimist club will provide a cash grant of \$2,000 to its award recipient. The Fellowship Award will be paid in its entirety to the college or university the recipient attends. For more information about how Soroptimist improves the lives of women and girls, call Dolores Bridges at 541-432-0467.

# MAYOR: Councilors sworn in

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He told the council that implementing the proposal would be "an arduous process" necessitating a change to the city's charter, "but I would like you to have that in the back of your mind," the mayor said. In advocating a longer term, Lear argued that two years was too short a period for any mayor "to get things evolved." Lear also talked about public perceptions of the city's workforce. "People are concerned about the salaries of the employees of the city," he said, but he doesn't personally agree with that view. "I don't think that our salaries are out of line in any way," Lear said. He supports more detailed employee performance stan-



Enterprise city councilors, from left, Laura Miller, Jenni Word, and Dave Elliott are sworn into office Tuesday night, Jan. 13, during the monthly regular meeting of city government. Elliott is the Enterprise council's only new member.

Rob Ruth/Chieftain

dards, however, and these would form the substance for regular employee reviews. "I think that we as a council have to be accountable. I think the people that do the work have to be accountable," the mayor said.

Yet another major focus area Lear suggests for this term: greater consistency in enforcing city ordinances. He said the practice currently is that "some ordinances we enforce and we enforce vigorously," while with many

others "we are lackadaisical." He concedes that part of the problem is with the ordinances themselves, so he says the city should fix that. "Let's enforce them all, and if we have to change them, let's change them," Lear said.

# MULLER: Couple tours, teaches music, hosts concerts

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"When I got to Seattle I started playing music and hooked up with other people who played, and I started doing that and school fell by the wayside." Muller worked various "outside" jobs as needed in order to help ends meet, but she dedicated herself to a music career. "I'd work for awhile and make money, then I'd get tired of it and work on music. I taught guitar and dulcimer lessons in Seattle and made nearly as much money as I did working. The only problem with the lessons was people quit in sum-

mer time without any notice," Muller said. Muller continued the work/music cycle for 19 years and met and formed a songwriters group with Janis Carper, the current executive director of the Wallowa Valley Music Alliance. In 2000 Muller left Seattle for New Jersey to care for her mother. During that period she met her future music and life partner Bob Webb at a music conference. Although they didn't see each other for two years afterward, they eventually reconnected and became a couple shortly after that. Muller and Webb lived in

West Virginia for the next seven years and Webb introduced her to teaching music to children, an activity Muller had little experience in at the time. Muller stayed in touch with Carper, who had moved to the Wallowa Valley. Eventually, in 2003, Muller started booking music tours in the Northwest so she wouldn't lose touch with the region. Webb eventually joined her and they performed one of their first concerts at Fishtap House. "We kept coming back because the people are so welcoming here and I eventually taught a summer Fishtap songwriting class," Muller said.

Muller and Webb, with the encouragement of friends, decided to relocate to the area. "We could have relocated to Seattle or Tacoma, but we wanted a small town where it's easier to get to know people," Muller said. In 2012 Muller and Webb moved to the area while booking a string of Northwest concerts. They still work as local and touring musicians and as music teachers. Looking back on her career and influences, Muller named Joni Mitchell as the musician who most influenced her. A defining moment in

Muller's career came at the Seattle Opera House in 1992 when she opened for singer-songwriter Nancy Griffith at a 3,000-seat venue. Recently, the company that publishes the famed "Rise Again" folk songbook informed Muller that they intend to publish a song of hers in their next edition. "They called me out of the blue for one particular song and asked me to send some others, and they chose

one more that has a connection to this area. It's called 'Sacred Ground,' which has a piece in it about Chief Joseph." As to leaving a legacy, Muller says: "As a songwriter, I'd like to know that some of the songs I've written have meaning for other people. When I put them out in performance or CDs my intention is that they ripple out from the center and help someone get through the day or a situation."

# WALDEN: Representative talks forest plan

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Walden spoke of his seat on the Energy and Commerce committee, as well as, his chairmanship of the Communications and Technology sub-committee. Walden cited the sub-committee's importance of obtaining broadband Internet for rural areas and the inherent community growth associated with it. While Walden spoke of other legislation to overturn laws on Obamacare and other issues, including the Keystone Pipeline, he admitted the Republicans did not have the votes to override a presidential veto. Walden mentioned the Blue Mountain Forest Plan saying, "Nobody probably summed it up better than Bruce (Dunn, chairman of the Wallowa County Natural Resources Advisory Committee) in his public analysis in the paper." Walden referred to a Jan. 7 newspaper article in which the Chieftain quoted Dunn as saying the plan "sucks."

thal methods of wolf control. He also declared his support for delisting the wolf as an endangered species. On other forestry issues Walden downplayed the current Wyden/Merkley attempt to increase forest harvest and instead touted an independent Republican plan which he thinks has a better chance of passage through congress. Walden also mentioned several pieces of legislation he worked on to expedite timber harvest including a law that targets lawsuits filed by environmental groups. Walden added the new Republican controlled congress would institute more forestry reform although he again mentioned the president's veto pen in that regard. Walden criticized the Obama administration on everything from Obamacare to U.S. foreign policy, spending and immigration. Walden said the president probably never read the Affordable Care Act and also said the reduction in

the federal deficit is because of Republican policies, not the Democrats or the White House. Walden cited recent foreign policy decisions such as the administration's failure to provide a representative to the Paris Unity March. "I think it's wrong that someone of the cabinet level or above wasn't there to stand in solidarity with the people of France." He acknowledged no Republicans attended the event. Questioning the administration's foreign policy, Walden said, "There is a clear understanding the world has not gotten safer. Especially under this administration it has gotten more dangerous." Regardless of some of the negative aspects of the political landscape, Walden promised the House would do its best to rectify the nation's problems. "Our goal is to do as much as we can in the House ... we make progress and live to fight another day," Walden said.

Afterward, County Commissioner Susan Roberts expressed her views on the meeting, "The people who come to these town hall meetings are the people who are truly interested in the well-being of our county and our nation. I'm always pleased when our representatives come and interface with our people personally."



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